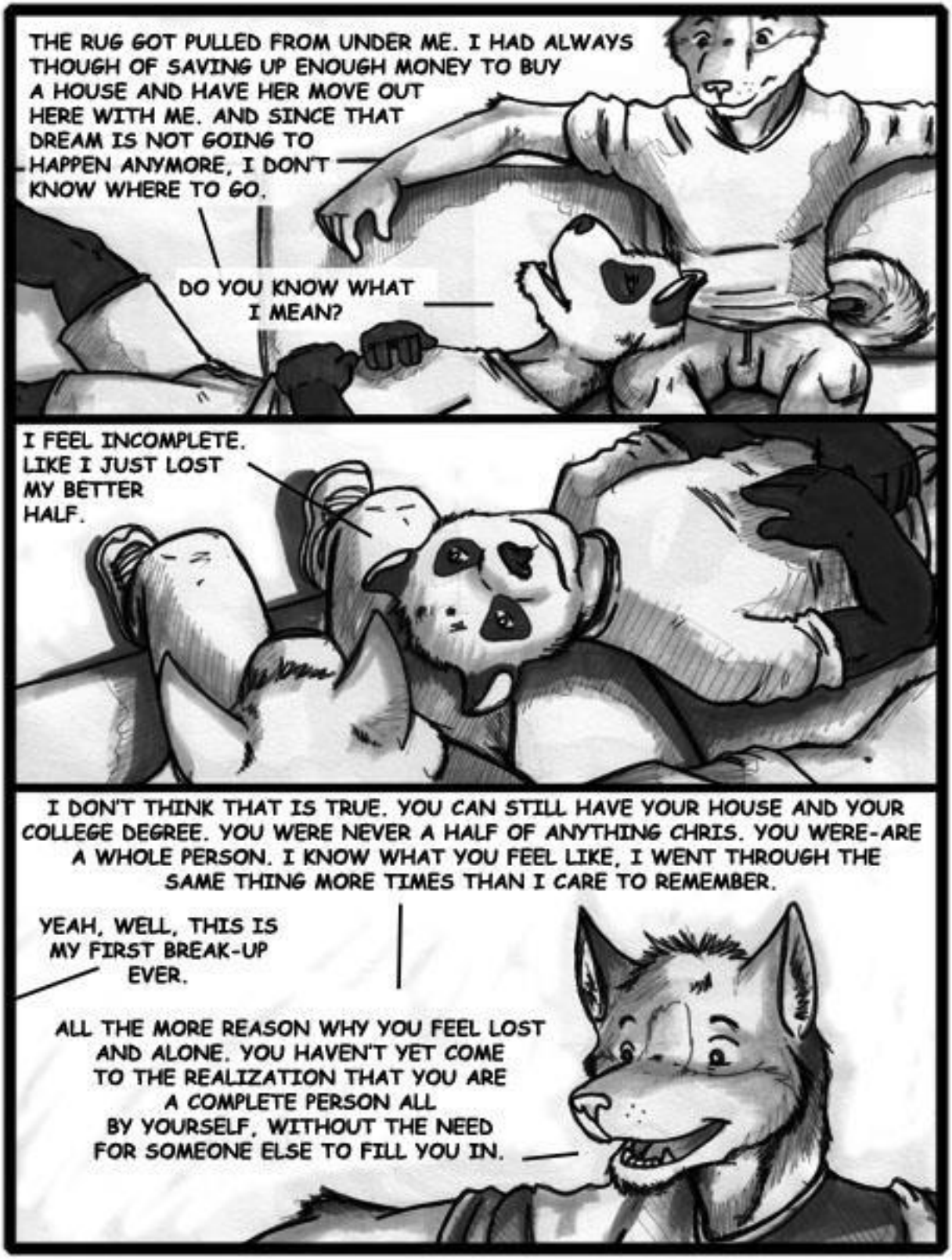
DEAD
END
CHIQUITITA
-ABBA-

HEY CHRIS, I'M HOME.
WOW... ABBA, I HAVEN'T HEARD THEM IN AGES.
OK, SO YOU ARE LISTENING TO ABBA AND SITTING ON THE COUCH DOING NOTHING BUT EATING ICE CREAM.
YOU MIGHT NOT BE GAY, BUT THAT IS THE BIGGEST DRAMA-QUEEN ACT I HAVE EVER SEEN.

I BROKE UP WITH MY GIRLFRIEND.
OH WOW, I AM REALLY SORRY. YOUR HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART RIGHT?
YEAH.
WE HAD A FIGHT. AND IT MADE ME REALIZE THAT I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW HER AS MUCH AS I THOUGHT, OR THAT MAYBE, OVER THE TIME THAT I HAVE BEEN OUT HERE, WE HAVE GROWN APPART. EITHER WAY, IT DIDN'T FEEL LIKE THE SWEET AND CARING LILA THAT I KNEW. WE ARGUED OVER THE PHONE A LOT AND EVENTUALLY SHE BROKE IT OFF. SHE SAID THAT I HAD BECOME A SINNER, AND THAT I HAD CHANGED. THAT I WAS NO LONGER A GOOD CHRISTIAN BOY.

THE WEIRD PART IS THAT I ALWAYS THOUGH THAT BEING CHRISTIAN MEANT THAT YOU HAVE TO LOVE EVERYONE. HATE WAS NEVER AN OPTION. NOT ONLY THAT, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT I HAVE CHANGED MUCH.
FROM WHAT YOU TELL ME, IT SEEMS LIKE SHE WAS THE ONE WHO CHANGED. SO FAR AS I CAN TELL, YOU ARE STILL THE SAME OLD MIDWESTERN BOY THAT I MET SO MANY YEARS AGO.
HEHE, I REMEMBER THAT, FIRST YEAR IN SCHOOL HERE IN CALIFORNIA. I HAD A PHOTO OF BUSH IN FRONT OF MY DESK.
TOOK ME SEVEN MONTHS TO TALK YOU INTO PUTTING IT AWAY.
HAH! SO MAYBE MY POLITICAL VIEWS HAVE CHANGED A BIT.
I STILL AM A GOOD CHRISTIAN.
I TRY TO RESPECT AND LOVE EVERYONE. IT JUST STILL HURTS TO KNOW THAT I AM SINGLE. I HAVEN'T BEEN SINGLE IN YEARS. I FEEL LONELY.

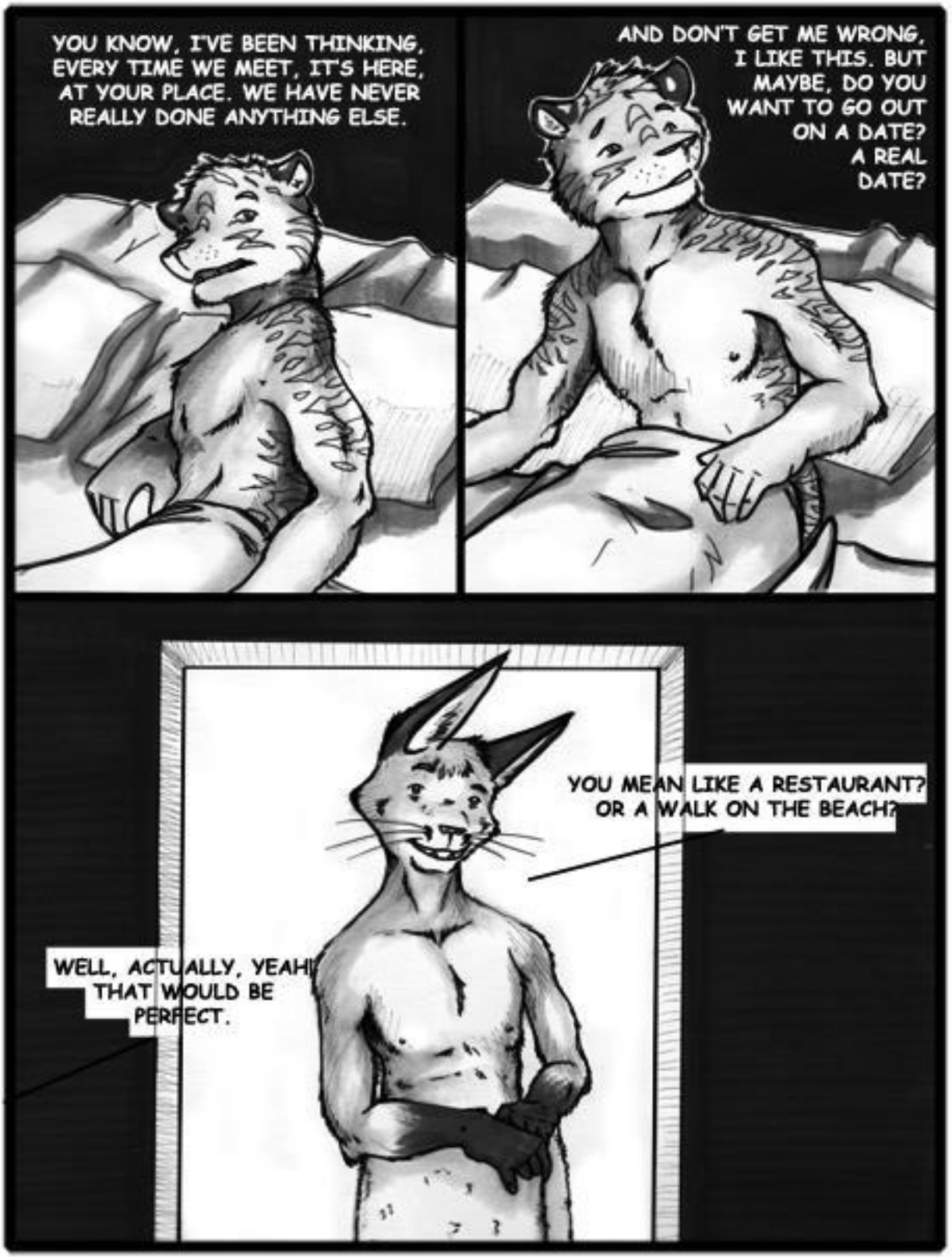

THE RUG GOT PULLED FROM UNDER ME. I HAD ALWAYS THOUGH OF SAVING UP ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY A HOUSE AND HAVE HER MOVE OUT HERE WITH ME. AND SINCE THAT DREAM IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN ANYMORE, I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
I FEEL INCOMPLETE. LIKE I JUST LOST MY BETTER HALF.
I DON'T THINK THAT IS TRUE. YOU CAN STILL HAVE YOUR HOUSE AND YOUR COLLEGE DEGREE. YOU WERE NEVER A HALF OF ANYTHING CHRIS. YOU WERE-ARE A WHOLE PERSON. I KNOW WHAT YOU FEEL LIKE, I WENT THROUGH THE SAME THING MORE TIMES THAN I CARE TO REMEMBER.
YEAH, WELL, THIS IS MY FIRST BREAK-UP EVER.
ALL THE MORE REASON WHY YOU FEEL LOST AND ALONE. YOU HAVEN'T YET COME TO THE REALIZATION THAT YOU ARE A COMPLETE PERSON ALL BY YOURSELF, WITHOUT THE NEED FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO FILL YOU IN.

IS IT GOING TO GET BEETER? HOW LONG AM I GOING TO KEEP FEELING THIS SHITTY?
A LONG TIME I AM AFRAID. YOU WILL THINK OF HER EVERY DAY AND POSSIBLY BREAK INTO TEARS JUST AS OFTEN. BUT THEN YOU WILL START TO ONLY DO THAT EVERY OTHER DAY, THEN EVERY OTHER WEEK.
IT IS A SLOW PROCESS. BUT I KNOW YOU WILL BE FINE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT? HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT I WILL EVER BE OK?
BECAUSE YOU ARE AN AWESOME GUY. AND YOU WILL EVENTUALLY MEET SOMEONE ELSE WHO WILL MAKE YOU FORGET ABOUT YOUR PAST LOVE.

YOU KNOW IF I WERE GAY I WOULD TOTALLY TRY TO MAKE A MOVE ON YOU RIGHT NOW.
SHUT UP!
THAT IS THE MOST HORRIBLE THING YOU CAN EVER SAY TO A GAY MAN.
I PERSONALLY HAVE GOTTEN THAT PHRASE MORE TIMES THAN I SHOULD.
IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, THOUGH, I AM GLAD THAT YOU ARE MY FRIEND.
LIKE SOMEONE RECENTLY SAID TO ME, YOU ARE PART OF MY FAMILY CHRIS. EVEN THOUGH WE MIGHT NOT BE RELATED BY BLOOD. YOU ARE LIKE MY BROTHER. AND I WILL ALWAYS TRY TO BE THERE FOR YOU.
ME TOO HUSKY, ME TOO.

NOW, PLEASE GIVE ME BACK MY HAND.
SIT YOUR ASS BACK UP.
AND PASS ME THE ICE CREAM.
YOU HAVE HAD ENOUGH EMO MOMENTS FOR TODAY. SO LETS WATCH SOME BATTLESTAR.
WOULDN'T YOU RATHER WATCH GREY'S ANATOMY?
CHRIS, YOU ARE SUCH A FAG.

HEY THERE HANDSOME.


YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING, EVERY TIME WE MEET, IT'S HERE, AT YOUR PLACE. WE HAVE NEVER REALLY DONE ANYTHING ELSE.
AND DON'T GET ME WRONG, I LIKE THIS. BUT MAYBE, DO YOU WANT TO GO OUT ON A DATE? A REAL DATE?
YOU MEAN LIKE A RESTAURANT? OR A WALK ON THE BEACH?
WELL, ACTUALLY, YEAH! THAT WOULD BE PERFECT.

I WANT TO TAKE YOU TO THE BEST PLACE. SUITS AND EVERY-THING. I BET YOU LOOK REALLY HANDSOME IN A SUIT AND TIE.
THE SAD PART, IS THAT YOU ARE THE FIRST GUY TO EVER ASK ME THAT, AND AS MUCH AS I WOULD LOVE TO, I DON'T HAVE A SUIT AND TIE. I BARELY HAVE ANY CLOTHES AT ALL.
THE UNIVERSE HAS A HORRIBLE SENSE OF HUMOR.
I THREW THEM ALL AWAY. IT IS AS SIMPLE AS THAT.
WHAT HAPPENED?
I DIDN'T WANT ANY OF MY OLD CLOTHES. THEY REMINDED ME OF SOMETHING THAT I WOULD RATHER FORGET.
DO YOU REMEMBER HOW WE MET? HOW I USED TO STARE AT THE LGBT CENTER? IT WASN'T BECAUSE I HAD ANYTHING AGAINST IT, I WAS MAD AT MYSELF. I WAS UPSET THAT I WAS A STEREOTYPE. ALL MY CLOTHES WERE PROOF.
SO, AFTER A COUPLE OF DAYS OF DEPRESSION, I FREAKED AND PUT THEM ALL IN THE TRASH.

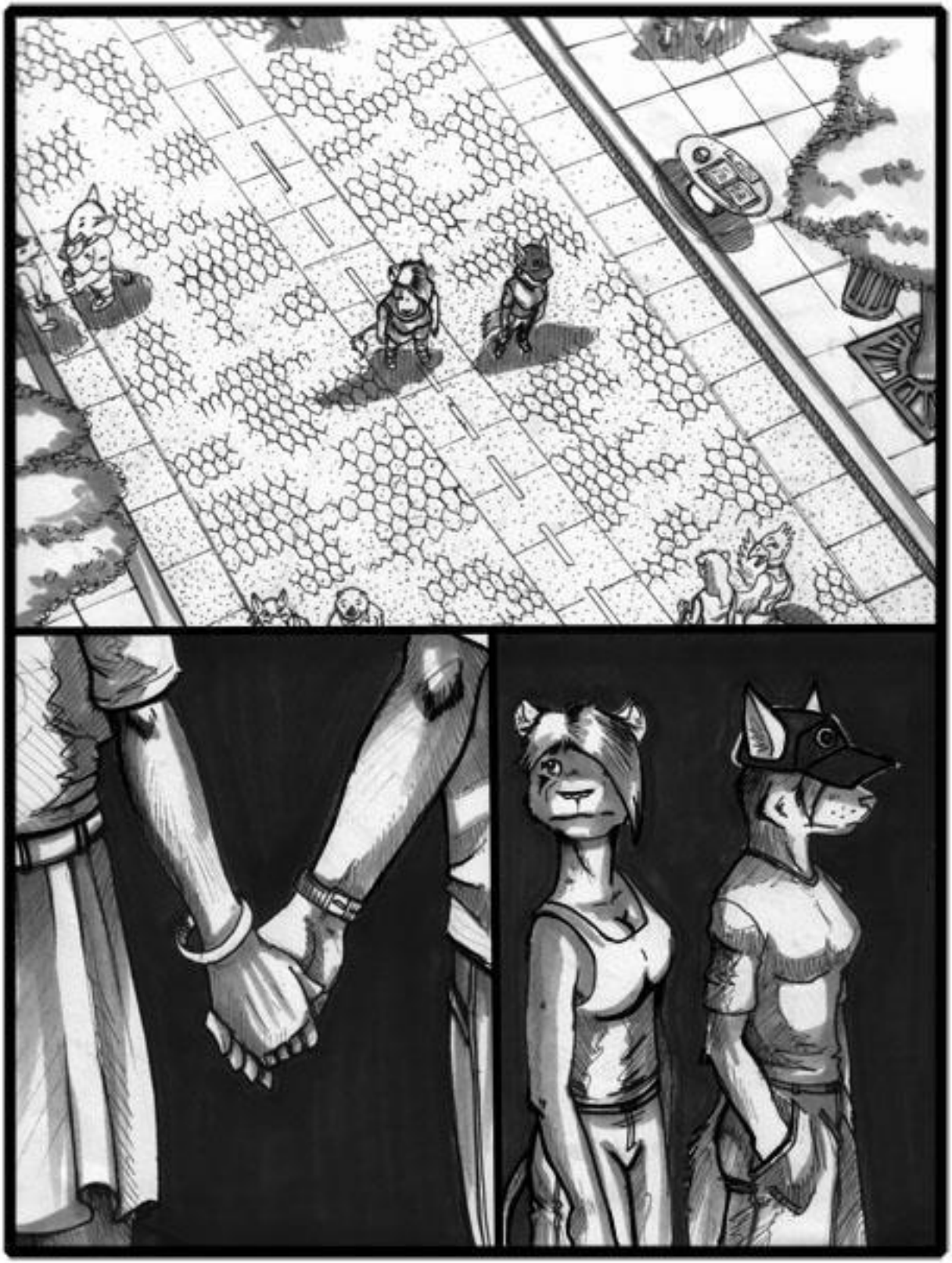
NOW THIS IS ALL THAT I HAVE LEFT. ONLY A COUPLE OF CHANGES TO GO TO SCHOOL.

SIGH

IT'S NO SUIT AND TIE. BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND IT, WE COULD START OFF WITH A MOVIE.
IF THAT IS OK WITH YOU?

THIS FEELS
REALLY WEIRD.

I SOMETIMES FORGET HOW MUCH WE TAKE OUR LITTLE ISLAND FOR GRANTED. WEST HOLLYWOOD SEEMS SO FRIENDLY BY COMPARISON.
I DON'T HAVE TO THINK TWICE ABOUT THE LITTLE THINGS, LIKE HOLDING YOUR HAND.
IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THAT I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT NOTICED IT.
IT FEELS REALLY WEIRD.
AND WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT SUCH A LITTLE GESTURE COULD MAKE SUCH AN IMPACT. IT SERIOUSLY FEELS SO AWKWARD TO WALK RIGHT NEXT TO YOU AND BE SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT WHAT THE PEOPLE AROUND US WILL SAY.



WELL, THIS MIGHT NOT BE 1969, AND THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT NEW YORK, BUT WE CAN HAVE OUR OWN LITTLE PROTEST AGAINST THE WORLD RIGHT HERE.
WHAT IS THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN?
DIRTY LOOKS AND A SNICKER HERE OR THERE?
SOME PEOPLE WILL MIND, AND MOST WILL GET USED TO IT.
MAYBE AN INSULT? DYKE? MUNCHER? LESBO?
BUT IT'S ALL TOTALLY WORTH IT, IF IN A COUPLE OF YEARS, I WON'T EVEN HAVE TO THINK TWICE ABOUT THIS.
A SHOVE WHEN WALKING BY?
I ALREADY FEEL BETTER.

VERY NICE!
LESBIANS!
I
LOVE
U.S.A.

LOOK AT THAT! HALF THE PEOPLE DON'T CARE, AND I'M NOT INCLINED TO CARE ABOUT THE HALF THAT DOES.
NO STONES, NO NAMES. ONLY A HANDFUL OF RAISED EYEBROWS.
I GUESS WE WERE THE ONES THAT WERE SCARED THE MOST. MAYBE I DON'T GIVE THE PEOPLE HERE ENOUGH CREDIT..
CAN'T SAY THAT IT WOULD BE THE SAME IF WE WERE IN ANY OTHER STATE.
WE ARE LUCKY.
YEAH, SO LETS ENJOY IT.